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DE RUEHTA #0392 0590634
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
P 280634Z FEB 08 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ASTANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1856
INFO RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0026
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 0093
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY 0138

S E C R E T ASTANA 000392

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, NEA, AND PM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/28/2028
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [KZ](#)
SUBJECT: SURVEY OF IRAQ DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 4865

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JOHN ORDWAY FOR REASONS 1.4(B) AND (D)

11. (S) Summary: Kazakhstani officials have stated consistently that Kazakhstani troops will stay in Iraq the duration of coalition engagement. The absence of Chapter VII UNSCR authority will not affect Kazakhstan's Iraq strategy. Kazakhstan's commitment in Iraq is based on political considerations made by top leadership and, with their support, a decision to remain in Iraq will not meet serious domestic opposition or legislative delay. End Summary

12. (S) Kazakhstani officials continue to indicate that Kazakhstan troops will remain in Iraq beyond 2008. On February 25, MFA Americas Director Talgat Kaliyev told DCM that Kazakhstani troops will stay in Iraq as long as a U.S. - led international coalition remains there and offered no other necessary conditions. At a February 22 Ministry of Defense briefing for chiefs of mission and military attaches from over 20 countries, Kazakhstani military officials prominently mentioned their Iraqi participation and gave no suggestion of plans for withdrawal.

13. (S) Kazakhstan's Iraq involvement has not led to serious domestic protest. Iraq was not a significant theme in last year's parliamentary elections, nor has it been a leading theme of recent political debate. As a result, if Kazakhstan's top leadership decides to extend Kazakhstan's Iraq deployment beyond the expiration of Chapter VII UNSCR authority, they will not experience serious public outcry or political obstacle.

14. (S) Comment: Kazakhstani officials give every indication that they intend to maintain a Kazakhstani presence in Iraq. Nevertheless, the chances for a continued commitment in Iraq will be further strengthened if the U.S. helps to ensure that the Kazakhstani contingent remains subordinate to U.S. commanders, increases funding for equipment and training for Kazakhstani soldiers in Iraq, and maintains U.S. support for other bilateral military cooperation programs. End Comment.
MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
ORDWAY